

BREAKING NEW GROUND THE PENN-AMERICAN DISTRICT

Bloomington-based developers StuartCo and United Properties recently broke ground on “Genesee,” a mixed-use retail and residential development on the southeast corner of Penn Avenue and American Boulevard.

The developers teamed with the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and City of Bloomington on the project. The City Council approved the more than \$40 million project in November 2010.

When completed, the first phase will include 212 apartments and 22 townhomes to be owned and managed by StuartCo. The residential portion of the project will be for rent. Many amenities will be available to residents



including a rooftop deck, fitness center and pool. The more than 14,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space will be owned by United Properties.

The project, part of the Penn-American District, is expected to be completed by late fall or early summer 2012. Future plans include office and retail adjacent to the Genesee site. Plans for transit improvements in

upcoming years encompass rebuilding the I-494/I-35W interchange and creating a bus rapid transit station on I-35W.

For more information, contact HRA Administrator Regina Harris at 952-201-3122 or rharris@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PENN AMERICAN.

PLANNING FOR BLOOMINGTON’S FUTURE WHY THE SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT MATTERS

The South Loop District is slated to be a premier destination hub and model for sustainable living and commerce in Bloomington.

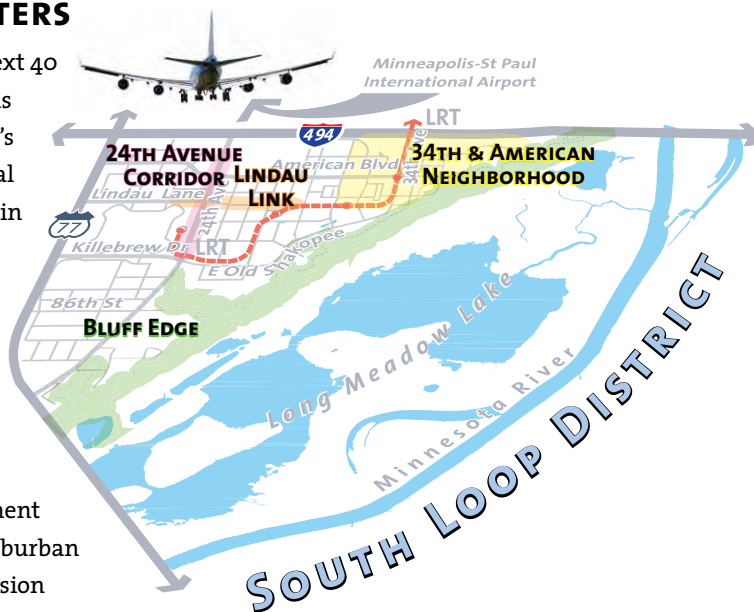
How do we know South Loop will grow and prosper? The district is already a center for business and employment, connected to the Twin Cities metropolitan area by freeways and a number of transit lines. Home to the Mall of America, an international airport and a national wildlife refuge, South Loop is a unique regional center for business that brings together urban development and attractive natural resources.

Over the next 40 years, two-thirds of Bloomington’s growth potential will be realized in the South Loop District.

The City’s vision for South Loop is to transform the area’s development pattern from suburban to urban. The vision includes transit-oriented, mixed-land use with storefronts that come up to the sidewalk and parking hidden underground or behind buildings. The City’s hospitality and retail clusters, semiconductor manufacturing, and healthcare industry will be the development engines.

The *South Loop District Plan* identifies strategic public investments that lay the foundation for private investment and growth.

A network of green streets and neighborhood parks, the four light rail



stations and 24th Avenue transit hub, and the sustainable infrastructure link a new residential neighborhood on the east side of the district to the commercial areas along the Lindau Link and 24th Avenue Corridor.

South Loop will attract new businesses and residents to Bloomington. The district’s development also reinforces the City’s reputation as a forward-looking, high-quality community.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to learn more about the *South Loop District Plan* and offer your input on the City’s ideas for the district, visit Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on **Saturday, August 20**, for a South Loop open house.

The open house will take place in the rehearsal hall during the Farmers Market between 8 - 11 a.m.

Displays will illustrate what the district will look like, as well as plans for future developments. Detailed maps will show future land uses, road construction, options for bike and pedestrian trails and more.

City staff will be available to answer questions and take comments.

See page 3 for additional South Loop developments. For more information, visit the [City’s website](http://City's website) or contact City Planner Julie Farnham at 952-563-8920 or jfarnham@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



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When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.

IN THE WORKS

CHILDREN’S SCIENCE MUSEUM COMING TO BLOOMINGTON



The Works, a hands-on museum for 5 - 12 year-olds that aims to make learning about science and engineering interesting and fun, is moving to Bloomington late this fall.

The new location, near the intersection of Lyndale Avenue and 98th Street, will provide The Works with room to expand its current program offerings.

The Works is a nonprofit organization that is part museum, part workshop, part playground.

For more information, visit www.theworks.org or call 952-848-4848.

FARMERS MARKET NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS

To make your shopping experience more convenient, the Farmers Market



now accepts credit cards and electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards (food stamps), in addition to cash.

Stop by the information tent at the market to purchase tokens with your EBT or credit card to use on qualifying purchases at participating vendors.

For more information, call Keri Lahl at 952-563-8877.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FARMERS MARKET.

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1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
REAPING THE BENEFITS OF STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING

By Mayor Gene Winstead

“AAA ratings are reserved for organizations that do just about everything right, just about all the time.” *

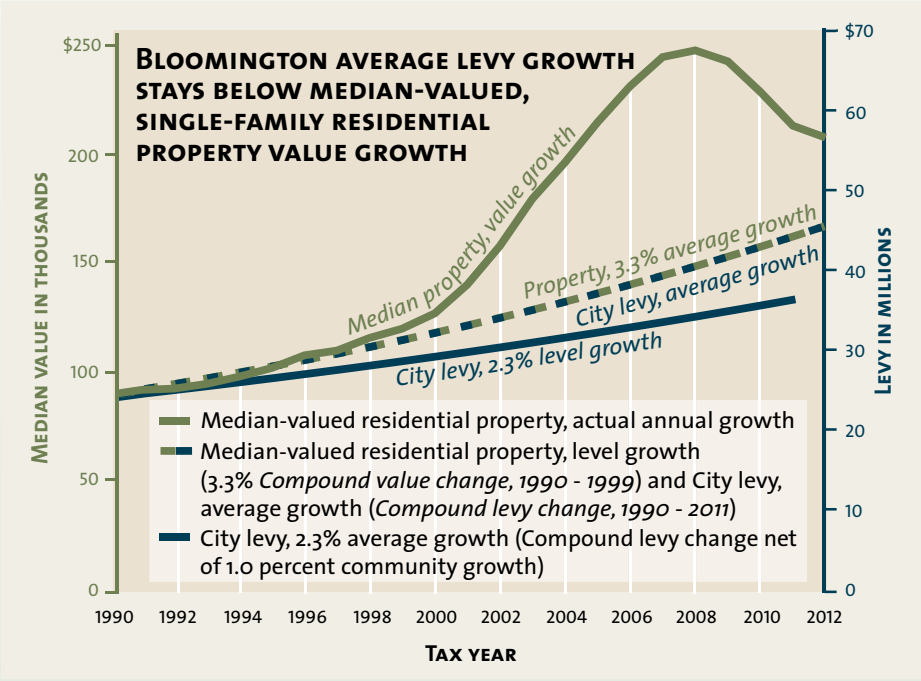
Bloomington has grown and prospered since a strategic choice was made in the early 1960s to take advantage of our geographic position near the transportation hubs of an emerging airport and new freeways. The city moved beyond a traditional post-World War II suburb to a significant residential, commercial, hospitality and retail presence in the metro area.

The community now has more jobs than residents and is one of only 31 communities nationwide with a Triple AAA rating from all three major ratings agencies. A senior fixed-income researcher from Nuveen Investment recently commented in *Finance & Commerce* on the value of a Triple AAA rated community that reflects Bloomington’s approach to strategic decision making. He said, “AAA ratings are reserved for organizations that do just about everything right, just about all the time. Gimmicks and one-time fixes aren’t indicative of true AAA issuers.”

The tradition of strategic planning, updated in 2006 using community input, shaped the mission and values adopted by the City Council in 2008 as *Imagine Bloomington 2025*. The focus was on development plans for the three areas where the most growth could occur: Normandale Lake, Penn-American and South Loop. Growing these areas, as we continue to enhance our residential neighborhoods, will promote a strong, balanced local economy.

During this economic downturn, a question often heard is, “When home values have declined, why don’t property taxes also decline?” While there may not be a simple answer, a good place to start is with an illustration. The graph, *above*, shows what occurred with single-family residential property values over the past 20 years. During the 1990s, market values, as reflected in the median-valued home, averaged about 3.3 percent annual growth. Beginning in 2000, the time of the dot-com downturn, many shifted their investments to residential real estate. This resulted in a housing market bubble. If there had not been a bubble and home market values had increased at the same rate as in the 1990s, values still would not have appreciated to the level they are today even given the decline of the past few years.

In the late 1990s, the City recognized these economic cycles and developed strategies to deal with them, including only staffing City services at levels that could be supported through a normal downturn. As a result, the City’s overall property tax levy increased, on average, at a rate that parallels home price increases in the 1990s. The City’s overall property tax levy, when adjusted for actual community growth, increased at about two-thirds the home value appreciation rate. In other words, the City did not



increase its property taxes during the past decade at anywhere near the rate that market values of homes increased.

Bloomington is very cost competitive when it comes to services. For a breakdown of property tax-supported services by department, see the City’s “checkbook” in the June *Corporate Report*, also available on the City’s website, keyword: [Checkbook](#).

The City Council routinely reviews and prioritizes all property tax-supported services provided to residents. By evaluating those priorities, we determine what the property tax levy should be for the following year. The City Council engaged in this priority-setting exercise in 2010 to lower the total 2011 levy to keep the monthly costs of services for a median-valued home at the same levels as previous years. In 2011, we are again prioritizing services for the 2012 levy.

More recently, we looked at the average property tax share that single-family homeowners pay in each community, removing the sometimes misleading element of value in the discussion. Bloomington is among the lowest, if not the lowest in all comparisons.

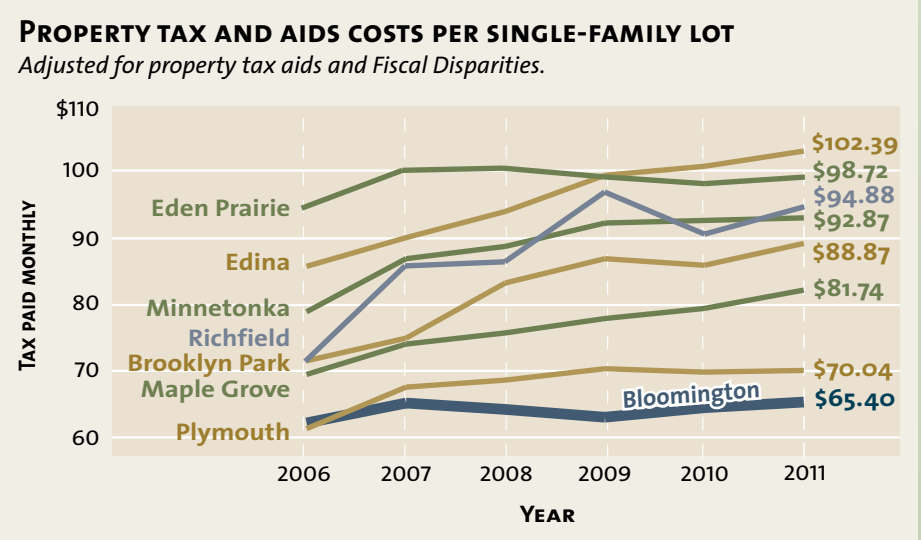
Were it not for the metro area’s fiscal disparities property tax base sharing law, the City share of single-family property taxes in Bloomington would be 18 percent lower. We are even more competitive considering

that Bloomington, unlike many other Minnesota cities, does not receive Local Government Aid and Market Value Homestead Credit from the State as shown in the graph *below*. (If your taxes differ from the tax per lot below, it’s a function of the Minnesota Property Tax system that apportions taxes based on property values.)

As our community becomes more diverse, so do opinions about these matters. The City Council’s role is to balance competing interests and make strategic decisions that not only maintain, but also significantly improve Bloomington services and amenities and keep Bloomington moving forward. An ongoing review helps us meet one of our key responsibilities: to provide excellent services at an affordable cost. All of the aforementioned comparative results are the fruits of the City’s long-term strategic decision making. Best of all, we are competitive enough to continue to attract new market rate investment in the community during the downturn, as evidenced by just three building permits issued in June 2011 for 622 new dwelling units now under construction – more units in one month than in any single year since 1988.

Bloomington will continue to grow and provide affordable, quality services, as a result of a dedication to strategic long-term planning.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: JUST THE FACTS.



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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; [E-MAIL Jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:Jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us).
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

NEW PROGRAM FOR HOME OWNERS

HOME IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT?

HRA LOANS CAN HELP

A new home rehabilitation loan is being offered through the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Community Enhancement Program (CEP) and Hennepin County to foster the continued renewal and preservation of residential neighborhoods in Bloomington.

This deferred rehabilitation loan, which does not have monthly payments, will be available to owners of single-family homes who live within the designated boundaries east of I-35W, west of Hwy. 77 and south of American Boulevard in Bloomington.

The maximum loan amount available is \$35,000. Income and home value limits apply. Eligible improvements

include, but are not limited to, siding, windows, reroofing, replacement of mechanical systems, decks, patios, three-season porches and garages.

Participants in the program will have their home rehabilitation loan deferred at 5 percent interest for the first 10 years. After 10 years, no additional interest will accrue. The loan is payable upon sale, transfer of ownership or when the home is otherwise no longer occupied by the applicant.

Applications will be accepted once the program is finalized in September 2011. For more information, visit the City's website. To have your name placed on a waiting list, contact HRA Program Specialist Brian



Duerwachter at 952-563-8939 or e-mail bduerwachter@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: CEP II.

AWARD-WINNING SERVICES

BIG ACCOLADES

ICE GARDEN RECEIVES JAMES PADGETT AWARD



Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) was the recipient of the 2011 James Padgett Award. The award is given yearly to the Minnesota ice arena that distinguishes itself as a leader, innovator and contributor to the ice arena industry.

BIG Manager Andy Baltgalvis, pictured above with Mayor Gene Winstead and Director of Community Services Diann Kirby, is always looking for ways to improve operations and to protect the City's investment.

"This award is a nice recognition and it shows the City's commitment to improving and upgrading its facilities," Baltgalvis said.

TOP HONORS WINNING CITY COMMUNICATIONS



The City has a long history of excellent communications with the Community as evidenced by the nearly 70 awards that it has received since 1998 from local and national peers.

Bloomington was again recognized for excellence in communications when it received top honors at this year's Minnesota Association of Government Communicators' (MAGC) 2011 Northern Lights Contest.

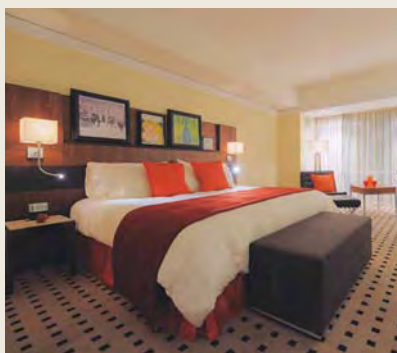
The *Briefing, Insider, Corporate Report to the Community 2010* and the *All About Water* video all received MAGC's highest honor: the Award of Excellence. The *City Faces* video was presented with an Award of Merit. Additionally, the *Insider*, the City's employee newsletter, was nominated for the Best of Show award.

The MAGC Northern Lights Contest represents the best in government communications. For a complete listing of all Communications' awards, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: AWARDS.

In the loop

RADISSON BLU CONSTRUCTION BEGINS HOTEL TO OPEN MARCH 2013



May groundbreaking kicked off construction of a 500-room Radisson Blu hotel at Mall of America (MOA) – the first hotel to be connected to MOA via skyway.

The City and Port Authority worked with Hennepin County, MOA, Minnetonka-based Carlson Hotels and Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction on the \$137 million hotel project. The project is funded through \$40.2 million in Bloomington Port Authority-issued tax-exempt bonds, \$40 million in private loans, \$14.5 million in Port Authority taxable parking ramp bonds, \$42 million in private equity from Carlson and Mortenson, and \$800,000 from MOA. Revenue from the hotel will be used to repay the debt on the hotel itself, with existing tax increments repaying parking ramp bonds. The City, Port Authority and taxpayers are not liable for repayment of the bonds.

The hotel will be situated on the south side of MOA, between Macy's and Bloomingdale's. It is estimated that the project will create 250 full-time construction jobs and 240 permanent hotel jobs. Radisson Blu is scheduled to open in March 2013.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RADISSON BLU.

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?

MOA INSTALLING HIGH EFFICIENCY PARKING LOT LIGHTS



Mall of America (MOA) is in the process of replacing all 5,400 parking ramp lights with new, light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures.

The project begins in September and will result in significant energy savings at MOA, making it a "best practices" example of the South Loop District's sustainability goals.

The lighting replacement, believed to be the largest efficiency conversion project of its kind in the United States, will trim the parking ramps' energy costs by two-thirds. The energy saved over the 20-year life of the fixture is enough to run Nickelodeon Universe for six years or power more than 11,000 homes for a year. For more information on how LEDs work and why they are efficient light sources, visit www.electronics.howstuffworks.com/led3.htm. The LED fixtures will also result in better lighting performance in cold weather and reduce light pollution. In other words, an observer outside the parking ramp will not see as much light coming from the side of the parking ramps. The yellowish glare of the high pressure sodium fixtures will now be replaced by a softer, white glow.

This efficiency improvement is an example of the public-private implementation the City wants to encourage by emphasizing sustainability in the *South Loop District Plan*. Accomplishing this lighting improvement required the cooperative involvement of MOA, the lighting fixture manufacturer, Xcel Energy, state and federal agencies, and the City of Bloomington.

The lighting replacement project will cost approximately \$3 million, aided by a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and \$500,000 energy conservation rebate from Xcel Energy. MOA will borrow the balance from the City and repay the loan and interest with five years of special assessments."

The installation will be undertaken by Acuity Brands Lighting, one of the world's largest providers of outdoor luminaires and lighting controls. The project is scheduled to be completed by late fall this year.

Since opening, MOA has made several investments to save energy and recycle its waste. MOA recycles around 60 percent of its total waste.

For more information, contact City Planner Londell Pease at 952-563-8926 or lpease@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



EXPLORE
BLOOMINGTON’S TRAILS
BIKING AND HIKING GUIDE
MAKES USING CITY TRAILS EASY

Bloomington has more than 19 miles of paved trails and sidewalks in our City parks. In addition, Bloomington offers miles of on-road bikeways and unpaved trails to explore. To help you find and navigate all these trails and bikeways, the City has created a biking and hiking guide.

The *Active Living Biking and Hiking Guide* maps on-road biking routes, as well as off-road biking and hiking trails, located within the city. This free guide, complete with detailed maps and active living tips, is available on the City’s website. Hard copies are available at the Parks and Recreation counter at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The creation of the *Active Living Biking and Hiking Guide* was made possible through a grant from the Statewide Health Improvement Program.

For more information, check out the *Alternative Transportation Plan*, also available on the [City’s website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: **HIKING MAP.**



BACKYARD COMPOSTING
GOOD PRACTICE FOR REDUCING
YOUR WASTE

Backyard composting is an easy way to turn much of the plant waste from your yard into a rich organic material that you can use to improve your soil. The process converts plant materials such as grass clippings and leaves into a usable organic soil amendment or mulch. Gardeners have used compost for centuries to increase soil organic matter, improve soil composition and supply some of the essential nutrients for plant growth.

Incorporating compost into light, sandy soil helps it hold both moisture and nutrients, while adding it to heavy soil improves drainage.

There are many additional benefits associated with composting when done right. To learn best practices, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: **COMPOST.**

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES
MASTER RECYCLERS

Residents Susan Tracy, Lisa Burkhart, Julie Tinberg and Amy Perkins jumped at the chance to be the first Minnesotans to participate in Hennepin County’s Master Recycler Program, a 25-hour education in the art of waste prevention, recycling and composting.

When the women discovered they were all from Bloomington, like any responsible environmentalists, they decided to carpool to the weekly class. After completing their formal training, they vowed to keep in touch.

“We all thought we could do more if we combined our efforts,” Tracy said. “Our goal is to increase recycling and composting, including by residents of apartments and multifamily homes where recycling rates tend to drop.”

What does it take to become a “master” of a skill or body of knowledge? Hard work? Dedication? Passion for the subject matter? According to Tracy, a retired Oak Grove Middle School teacher, to truly call oneself a master in any field requires continuing education and hands-on work. When the women finished their coursework in May, they were required



to commit at least 30 hours during the rest of the year teaching recycling at local schools, businesses, special events

and information booths.

In addition, the women must attend monthly meetings, continue to document their volunteer efforts and reapply through Hennepin County on a yearly basis to retain their titles.

“It’s a rigorous program, but well worth the time and effort,” Tracy said. “We learned so much about recycling everything from glass to mattresses to stuff you wouldn’t even think could be recycled.”

Tracy, who is also a Master Gardener, decided to participate in the pilot program because she is bothered by the waste she sees on a daily basis.

“I’ve been composting and recycling since 1964; in 2000 I built a three-bin composter in my backyard,” Tracy said. “I do it because there is far too much waste that gets tossed into landfills – it’s disgusting.”

Burkhart, a Bloomington resident for nearly 30 years and mother of two, got involved in the program to learn as much as possible about how recycling and compost programs work. She hopes to inspire others, especially kids.

“I love the notion that we can all be much more conscientious as consumers



Susan Tracy, Lisa Burkhart and Julie Tinberg at the compost bin.

and make a positive impact on the environment,” Burkhart said.

Tinberg’s goal is to create awareness in others and connect with like-minded people to find solutions for recycling barriers. She said there is a definite need for Master Recyclers in the community.

“I think it’s great to have ‘go to’ people in the community to answer questions about composting and recycling issues,” Tinberg said. “I enjoy being one of those people.”

For more information, visit www.hennepin.us, keywords: **Master Recycler Program** or call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.

STAY INFORMED

RECEIVE UPDATES FROM
E-SUBSCRIBE AND THE CITY’S
SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



The City offers a variety of online tools to help you stay informed about City news, programs, events and more. For example, you can sign up for Curbside Cleanup updates, *see article at right*, using [E-Subscribe](#).

This free subscription service sends e-mail and wireless notifications when updates to our most popular Web pages are posted.

Are you on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Twitter](#)? The City’s social media pages can also provide you with updates and keep you informed.

For more information, click the icons on the home page of the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: **SOCIAL MEDIA.**

AT YOUR SERVICE

KEEP BLOOMINGTON
LOOKING GOOD
HAULERS HELP RESIDENTS IN
THEIR SPRING CLEANING EFFORTS

The annual Citywide Curbside Cleanup recycled more than 1,785 discarded appliance units, 62 tons of tree brush, and one-and-a-half tons of unwanted scrap metal. General trash collected during the cleanup amounted to a whopping 1,717 tons.

Residents have been taking advantage of this opportunity to dispose of bulky waste not routinely picked up by weekly hauling services since the Cleanup began in 1963. (The Cleanup was discontinued in the 1980s, but resumed again in 1998.)

“The Curbside Cleanup has always been a great, affordable way to get rid of bulky waste that may be taking up space in your garage, yard or home,” Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler said. “Taking advantage of this program helps keep our city looking clean and ensures that unwanted items are disposed of in a safe manner.”

For an annual fee per single-family home of \$20.28 that appears on utility bills, haulers take unwanted mattresses, furniture, appliances, metal, tree brush, among other things, from the curbs of Bloomington residents during the five-week cleanup.

Unaccepted items, including hazardous materials (paints, motor oil, household chemicals), electronic items and batteries should be taken to the Hennepin County Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

For more information, contact Jim Eiler at 952-563-8766, or e-mail jeiler@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR COMMUNITY RESOURCES ARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Human Services provides exceptional resources, programs and services to community members of all ages. Below is just a sampling of the wide variety of valuable programs and services available. You can find all these and more in the *Human Services Community Resource Catalog*. Pick up your catalog at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or find it online.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RESOURCE CATALOG.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740. To sign up for e-mail updates, go to the City's website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and subscribe to "Human Services."

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL PHOTO WALL

Human Services is seeking photos of veterans for its 2011 Veterans Photo Wall. Bring a photo, along with the individual's name, rank and years of service, to Creekside to submit it to the collection. Staff will scan your photo and promptly return the original. Photos will be on display throughout the month of November.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: VETERANS WALL.



LET YOUR CREATIVITY FLOW

ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

Do you like to write? Maybe you have a collection of poems hidden away in a drawer somewhere? Why not take a chance and enter your poem in the *Second Annual Human Services Division Senior Program Poetry Contest*. The competition is open to all adults, age 55 and older, and individuals with disabilities of any age. Contestants are able to submit up to two poems, which should include a cover sheet with the poem title and contact information. Typed or handwritten poems of any length and genre will be accepted.

For consideration, all poems should be submitted to Creekside Community Center by **Friday, September 23**. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, as well as five honorable mentions. A reception for contest winners and participants will be held on **Saturday, October 22, 6 - 8 p.m.**, at Creekside.

For more information, contact Jerry Neren at 952-888-9524 or e-mail jgneren@gmail.com.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: POETRY CONTEST.



HANDMADE WITH LOVE CREEKSIDE COMES TO THE FARMERS MARKET

The Creekside Boutique will be at the Farmers Market on **Saturday, September 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** A wide variety of handcrafted items, including baby blankets, jewelry, birdhouses and more, will be available for purchase. All items are locally crafted by talented community members.

The Creekside Boutique, located in Creekside Community Center, is open Monday - Friday, 10 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 2:45 p.m. Evening hours are Tuesdays, 6 - 8 p.m., and Saturdays in November and December, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information on the Farmers Market, *see page 1*.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CREEKSIDE BOUTIQUE.



HELP FOR PARENTS STARTING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR RIGHT

Looking for resources for the new school year? Attend the *Connecting to the Community Information Night* hosted by Human Services on **Monday, August 8, 5 - 6:30 p.m.**, at Creekside Community Center.

Human Services staff, along with representatives from VEAP, Oasis for Youth, Good in the Hood, Pond Family Center and Hennepin County's Mobile Child Crisis Unit will be sharing information on their programs for school supplies, food resources, early learning, and dental and mental health services.

For more information, call Human Services.



ON THE ROAD FIND THE RIGHT FIT

Human Services will host a free CarFit session on **Saturday, September 17, 1 - 5 p.m.**, at Creekside Community Center.

CarFit is a community-based educational program created by the American Society on Aging in collaboration with American Association of Retired People (AARP). Participants are taken through a 12-point checklist to make sure their vehicle is adjusted to safely fit its driver. This includes fitting the headrest properly to minimize injury in case of crash, adjusting mirrors to reduce blind spots and adjusting the driver's seat to ensure safe airbag deployment.

For information or to register, call 952-563-4948, or visit [our website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: AARP.

REFRESH YOUR SKILLS STAY CURRENT ON TRAFFIC LAWS

Drivers age 50 and older should consider taking an AARP course that may qualify them for an auto insurance premium discount. The nation's first and largest refresher course is offered in **August** and **September**.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4948.

ENSURING YOUR VOICE IS HEARD

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS NOMINATE A BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL

Nominations for the Business Recognition Award are currently being sought by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and the Disability Employment Awareness Planning Committee. This award is presented annually to a Bloomington business, individual or organization that advances the employment of individuals with disabilities.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DISABILITY AWARENESS.



EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

OMAR BONDERUD AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission (HRC) is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. Each year, this award is proudly presented to an individual or organization that has contributed to ensuring human rights for residents of Bloomington.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: OMAR BONDERUD.

*Nominations for both the Business Recognition and Omar Bonderud awards are due **Friday, September 9**. To obtain a nomination form, call Human Services or visit the [City's website](#).*



LET'S DO LUNCH ENTERTAINING MEALS AND MORE

Human Services lunch events are held twice a month from **11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at Creekside Community Center. Reservations are required.

- **Movie Madness – Thursday, August 11**, play movie trivia and enjoy a movie, popcorn and door prizes.
- **Grandparent's Day – Monday, August 22**, bring your grandchild for lunch and fun activities such as face painting, cotton candy and door prizes.
- **Fall Harvest – Thursday, September 8**, the Bloomington Historical Society's Vonda Kelly will provide a historical back-to-school perspective and Superintendent of Bloomington Public Schools Les Fujitake will share a contemporary perspective.
- **Spanish Culture – Monday, September 19**, the flamenco dance group Zapitistas will perform followed by drawings for door prizes.



ROLLING ON THE RIVER
A HISTORIC EVENT RETURNS

Since it began in 1995, River Rendezvous has demonstrated the lifestyles of people living in Minnesota between 1830 and 1870 through storytelling and interactive, hands-on demonstrations.

At this year's River Rendezvous, **Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in an authentic logging camp, explore a one-room schoolhouse and enjoy festive Native American music and dancing.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: RENDEZVOUS.

SPECIAL EVENTS



This year's Summer Fete drew an estimated 45,000 people. Thank you to everyone who came out on July 3 and special thanks to the following sponsors:

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
- Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Bloomington Linoleum & Carpet Inc.
- Clover Cleaners of Bloomington
- David Fong's Restaurant
- Everett McClay Post 1296
- Feldmann Imports
- Friendship Village
- Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches, Penn Avenue
- Kinderplatz (now in Normandale Office Park)
- Mall of America
- Martin Luther Campus
- Micron Molding Inc.
- Military Order of the Cootie
- Mrs. Lali's Little Friends Montessori

- Owens Law, L.L.C.
- Raindance Sprinkler Systems Inc.
- Richfield-Bloomington Credit Union
- Urban Communications
- Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels & Cremation Services
- Wentworth Properties
- Ziegler Cat

PATRON-LEVEL AND ABOVE SPONSORS

- Kathi and Rocky Blake
- Rand Brugger
- Thomas and Elizabeth Flavin
- Mark Gang III
- The Heinmillers
- Steve and Amy Nelson
- David and Denise Olson

SPORTS HALL OF FAME BANQUET
AMATEUR SPORTS CONTRIBUTORS HONORED



The Annual Sports Hall of Fame Banquet honors those who have given their time and energy for the growth of amateur sports in Bloomington.

The 2011 banquet will be held **Thursday, October 13**, at the Knights of Columbus Marian Hall Event Center, 1114 American Boulevard West.

For more information, contact Dan Wallerus at 952-884-6675.



PRIMARY ELECTION
CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

There will be a city Primary Election for the offices of Mayor and Councilmember at Large. A city Primary Election is required by the City Charter when more than two candidates file for an office. The two candidates with the highest number of votes in the Primary Election for these offices will advance to the General Election ballot.

No Primary Election is required for the Councilmember District III and Council Member District IV offices. The General Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 8**.

Candidates on the Primary Election ballot are:

Mayor

- Fred (Red) Alan
- Hans Anderson
- Gene Winstead

Councilmember at Large

- Tim Busse
- Scott Lechtenberg
- Mike Lehmann

VOTING ASSISTANCE

Tell the election judges if you need assistance at the polling places. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have disabilities in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

SAMPLE BALLOT

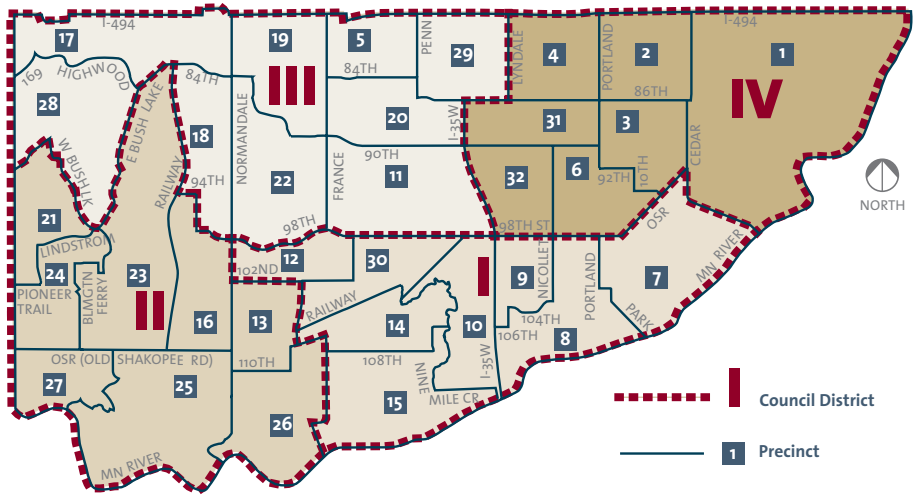
[Sample ballots are available to view online.](#)

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS! GET OUT AND VOTE!

2011 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.



Precinct/Polling location

- 1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center
3815 American Boulevard East
- 2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church
8000 Portland Avenue South
- 3 Cedar Valley Church
8600 Bloomington Avenue
- 4 Unity South Church
7950 1st Avenue South
- 5 Southtown Baptist Church
2600 West 82nd Street
- 6 Bloomington Lutheran Church
9350 Portland Avenue South
- 7 Indian Mounds Elementary School
9801 - 11th Avenue South
- 8 Riverside Reformed Church
10201 Nicollet Avenue South
- 9 Nativity of Mary School
9901 East Bloomington Freeway

Precinct/Polling location

- 10 St. Luke's Lutheran Church
1701 West Old Shakopee Road
- 11 Bloomington National Guard Armory
3300 West 98th Street
- 12 Crosspoint Church
9801 France Avenue South
- 13 Hubert Olson Elementary School
4501 West 102nd Street
- 14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church
3601 West Old Shakopee Road
- 15 Westwood Elementary School
3701 West 108th Street
- 16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church
9920 Normandale Boulevard South
- 17 Peace Lutheran Church
8600 East Bush Lake Road
- 18 The Church of St. Edward's
9401 Nesbitt Avenue South

Precinct/Polling location

- 19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church
8400 France Avenue South
- 20 Washburn Elementary School
8401 Xerxes Avenue South
- 21 Sunrise Park Shelter
9401 Bloomington Ferry Road
- 22 Normandale Hills Elementary School
9501 Toledo Avenue South
- 23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church
10701 Bloomington Ferry Road
- 24 Bloomington Lutheran School
10600 Bloomington Ferry Road
- 25 Bethany Missionary Church
6900 Auto Club Road
- 26 Southwood Center
4901 West 112th Street
- 27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium
6900 Auto Club Road
- 28 Bloomington Fire Station #6
8601 Lakeview Road
- 29 Christ the King Lutheran Church
8600 Fremont Avenue South
- 30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
2200 West Old Shakopee Road
- 31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)
- 32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church
9431 Nicollet Avenue South

VOTING INFORMATION: 952-563-8729 – WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US, KEYWORD: VOTING

PROTECTING ONE ANOTHER



CHECK THIS OUT HOLDING WORTHLESS CHECK WRITERS ACCOUNTABLE

The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) and City Attorney's Office, in conjunction with Financial Crimes Services, recently implemented a worthless check diversion program.

The program aims to reimburse victims, increase the accountability for people who issue worthless checks, and educate merchants and residents in ways they can reduce the incidence of worthless checks. The BPD also hopes the program will reduce the investigation and prosecution costs associated with worthless check cases.

According to Sergeant Mark Elliott, there is no cost to taxpayers or merchants for the program; it is funded solely by fees collected from the people who issue the worthless checks.

"The BPD has been conducting informational meetings and e-mailing notices to Bloomington businesses through its Business Watch Program," Elliott said.

Financial Crimes Services works with 124 city and county jurisdictions and 12,000 businesses. In 2010, the agency recovered \$1.4 million in worthless checks and returned it to merchants.

For more information, contact Sergeant Elliott at 952-563-8628.

"We hope that through proactive education and accountability, we can greatly reduce the number of worthless checks in Bloomington."

Sergeant Mark Elliott

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY FROM THE DESK OF OFFICER HEIDI MILLER

According to the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation, the majority of children injured or killed in pupil transportation are not injured or killed on the bus, but outside of the bus by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm.

With the start of another school year right around the corner, now is a good time to think about school bus safety. These tips apply not only to motorists, but to the students who are waiting, boarding and unloading from the bus.

Students:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk 10 giant steps away.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives the signal that it is safe.
- Protect yourself by being alert and aware of the traffic around you.

Motorists:

- Always stop for a school bus when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended – even on a two- or three-lane road.
- If you intend to turn onto a street where a school bus is stopped and the red lights are flashing, stay stopped in your original lane until the lights are turned off.
- Failing to stop for a school bus is chargeable as a gross misdemeanor punishable by a \$3,000 fine and/or a one-year jail sentence.

This article is in memory of Minnesota students who lost their lives in bus accidents. For more information, contact Officer Heidi Miller at 952-563-4975 or hmiller@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



SECURE YOUR HOME PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

During a typical year, home electrical problems account for 28,600 fires and \$1.1 billion in property losses. Electrical fires claim the lives of 310 Americans each year and injure 1,100 more. Some of these fires are caused by

electrical system failures, but many more are caused by incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits and extension cords. Follow these simple safety precautions to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical fires:

- Routinely check your electrical appliances.
- Replace all worn, frayed or damaged wiring or cords immediately.
- Only use power taps or strips that are polarized or grounded.
- Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances.
- Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords according to instructions and for temporary situations only.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION.



GROW YOUR FAMILY ADOPT FROM THE BLOOMINGTON ANIMAL SHELTER

Nearly 4 million animals are euthanized each year due to pet overpopulation, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

Adopting a pet from a local shelter is a great, inexpensive way to add a quality companion to your life and stop them from being unnecessarily put down. Animals that are adopted from a shelter are also more likely to be spayed, neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations.

At the Bloomington Animal Shelter, located at 9920 Logan Avenue, employees carefully assess animals' temperament and health in order to make sure they are fit for adoption. On any given day, the shelter will have cats and dogs available and occasionally puppies and kittens for an adoption fee of \$30 (plus sales tax).

You may receive notification when a new animal has arrived at the shelter. Visit the City's website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and sign-up to receive an e-mail alert each time a new pet is available for adoption.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ADOPT A PET.



CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Bloomington Environmental Health is conducting a food safety survey to assess public awareness of food safety and food-borne illnesses.

The survey results will be used by Environmental Health to provide better and more useful public information on food safety.

To participate in the online survey, visit the City's website and type in the keywords below. The survey will also be available in paper form at the Bloomington Farmers Market and participating grocery stores.

Participants may also have the chance to receive a free gift for completing the survey.

For more information, contact Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FOOD SAFETY.

HELP CURB DISTRACTED DRIVING MAKING BLOOMINGTON A SAFER PLACE TO DRIVE

The City of Bloomington's Fatal Crash Review Committee (BFCRC) is asking residents to steer clear of distractions while on the road.



BFCRC's message includes a few simple pieces of advice: Always use your seatbelt, follow

posted speed limits and avoid impaired driving at all costs. Keep in mind that impaired driving not only includes drunk driving, but also the use of cell phones or other electronic devices.

The committee is comprised of representatives from Bloomington Police, Traffic Engineering, Public Health and Risk Management, and other agencies such as the Tri-City Partners Coalition, and Safe and Drug Free Schools. The committee meets quarterly to review fatal crashes and determine alternatives for safer roads.

"While behind the wheel we need to make sure we stay alert, especially when driving in pedestrian-heavy areas and in school zones where large numbers of children are walking," said Public Health Specialist and Committee Chair Carolyn Anderson.

Pedestrians can take steps as well to ensure they are safe when walking in the community.

For more information, contact Public Health Specialist Carolyn Anderson at 952-563-8989 or e-mail clbanderson@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

BLOOMINGTON
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

THE PETERSON FAMILY



Minnesota’s first family of jazz celebrates family togetherness with a tribute to the Gershwins, **September 25**.

SWING SET

A musical revue of jazz, sassy swing tunes and many popular favorites performed by Lee Engele and the Sisters of Swing, **October 2**.

MONROE CROSSING

Hear the Midwest’s top bluegrass and gospel quintet, **October 7**.

WOLVERINES WITH BUTCH MILES

Big band jazz features drummer Butch Miles, the Wolverines and vocalist Judy Donaghy, **October 9**.

CROSBY-CLOONEY STORY

Arne Fogel and Maud Hixson bring you the musical story of two spectacular entertainers who joined forces and made pop music history, **December 10**.

GUITARISTS EXTRAORDINAIRE



Guitarists Sam Miltich and Joan Griffith with special guest vocalist Connie Evingson, **January 28 - 29**. **BB**

AN EVENING WITH MARK TWAIN

Bill Cosgrove presents *An Evening with Mark Twain*, “The Trouble Begins at Eight,” **February 1, 4 and 5**. **BB**

FRANKIE WENT TO HOLLYWOOD

Arne Fogel and Maud Hixson present the music of Frank Sinatra, **February 18**.

BARBARY COAST

The Barbary Coast presents a new show of classic dixieland jazz, **June 16**.

NOTE-ABLE SINGERS

SONGS OF THE SEASON

Feel the joy of the holidays with Bloomington women’s show choir, **December 15**.

BROADWAY BLAST



The NOTE-able Singers transport you to the Great White Way, performing songs from popular Broadway shows, **June 3 and 5**.

2011 - 2012 PERFORMANCE SERIES

This year the Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band and chorale concerts, as well as jazz and cabaret shows, featuring great songs from the cinema. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	ADULT	SENIOR/ STUDENT
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2011					
TH - SA	Sept 9 - Oct 1	7:30 p.m.	Brighton Beach Memoirs	\$18	\$16
SU	Sept 11 - Oct 2	2 p.m.	Brighton Beach Memoirs	\$18	\$16
SU	Sept 25	2 p.m.	Peterson Family	\$20	\$17
SU	Oct 2	2 p.m.	Swing Set	\$20	\$17
F	Oct 7	7:30 p.m.	Monroe Crossing	\$25	\$22/\$19
SU	Oct 9	2 p.m.	Wolverines Big Band	\$20	\$17/10
SU	Nov 20	4 p.m.	Passport to Europe	\$12	\$10
W - SA	Dec 2 - 17	7:30 p.m.	Inspecting Carol	\$18	\$16
SU	Dec 4 - 18	2 p.m.	Inspecting Carol	\$18	\$16
SA	Dec 10	7:30 p.m.	Crosby – Clooney Story	\$22	\$19/\$16
SU	Dec 11	4 p.m.	Sounds of the Season	\$12	\$10
TH	Dec 15	7:30 p.m.	Songs of the Season	\$12	\$10
SA	Dec 17	7:30 p.m.	Holly, Harp and Fiddle	\$14	\$10
SU	Dec 18	4 p.m.	Holly, Harp and Fiddle	\$14	\$10

2012					
SA	Jan 28	7:30 p.m.	Guitarists Extraordinaire	\$18	\$16
SU	Jan 29	2 p.m.	Guitarists Extraordinaire	\$18	\$16
W	Feb 1	1 p.m.	An Evening with Mark Twain	\$18	\$16
SA	Feb 4	7:30 p.m.	An Evening with Mark Twain	\$18	\$16
SU	Feb 5	2 p.m.	An Evening with Mark Twain	\$18	\$16
SA	Feb 18	7:30 p.m.	Frankie Went to Hollywood	\$22	\$19/\$16
SU	Feb 26	3 p.m.	Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs	\$25	\$25
SU	Mar 4	4 p.m.	Shall We Dance?	\$12	\$10
TH - SA	Mar 16 - Apr 7	7:30 p.m.	The 39 Steps	\$18	\$16
SU	Mar 18 - Apr 1	2 p.m.	The 39 Steps	\$18	\$16
F	Apr 13	7:30 p.m.	Blue Suede Shoes	\$14	\$10
SA	Apr 14	4 p.m.	Blue Suede Shoes	\$14	\$10
SU	Apr 15	4 p.m.	Country Gardens	\$12	\$10
SU	June 3	2 p.m.	Broadway Blast	\$15	\$12
TU	June 5	7:30 p.m.	Broadway Blast	\$15	\$12
TH - SA	May 18 - June 9	7:30 p.m.	Crimes of the Heart	\$18	\$16
SU	May 20 - June 10	2 p.m.	Crimes of the Heart	\$18	\$16
SA	June 16	7:30 p.m.	Barbary Coast	\$25	\$22/\$19



CREATE A SERIES AND
SAVE UP TO 25%

Order tickets to four or more events to create a performance series MultiPass and save \$2 per ticket. This offer may be applied to adult and senior/student tickets, but may not be combined with other discounts.

THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER TICKETS

- 1 **By phone:** Call the Bloomington Box Office at 952-563-8575.
- 2 **Online:** Visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org, select “Tickets and Registration” followed by “Order Tickets.”
- 3 **In person:** Call 952-563-8575 for box office hours. Due to the seasonal nature of our organization, box office hours change according to demand.

Orders received less than seven days prior to the performance will be held for pickup at the box office. Programs and artists are subject to change. All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges allowed.



ANGELICA CANTANTI
YOUTH CHOIRS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONCERT



The Angelica singers and alumni present a special event to support a scholarship fund in honor of Rita Docter’s 25 years of leadership, **February 26**.

BLOOMINGTON CHORALE

HOLLY, HARP AND FIDDLE

A ceremony of festive holiday carols, **December 17 - 18**.

BLUE SUEDE SHOES

The chorale takes you back to the early days of rock ‘n’ roll, **April 13 - 14**.

MEDALIST CONCERT BAND

PASSPORT TO EUROPE



Selections by a host of European masters, **November 20**.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Take time to celebrate the holidays, **December 11**.

SHALL WE DANCE?

Enjoy everything from the minuet to the mambo, **March 4**.

COUNTRY GARDENS

Enjoy selections by Aaron Copland, Alberto Ginastera and Percy Grainger, **April 15**.

BLOOMINGTON THEATRE
AND ART CENTER



This Tony Award winner intermingles drama with comedy, **September 9 - October 2**. **BB**

INSPECTING CAROL

A riotous version of a classic favorite, **December 2 - 18**. **BB**

THE 39 STEPS

A fast-paced whodunit with a cast of four, playing 150 characters, **March 16 - April 7**. **BB**

CRIMES OF THE HEART

A play about three eccentric sisters from a small town rocked by scandal, **May 18 - June 10**. **BB**

BB Indicates performance takes place in the Black Box Theater.